

POPULACE FLEEING IN TERROR BEFORE GREAT LAVA FLOW

Grasping Crucifixes, People
Pray for Rescue, Only to Be
Driven From Homes.

Castania, March 29.—The eruption of Mount Aetna, which began on Wednesday and was still of a threatening character early today, decreased noticeably as the day progressed.

Toward night the rumbling ceased and the side craters emitted sand, which is considered an indication that the disturbance will not continue much longer.

The stream of lava moving in the direction of Borrello has diminished in volume and velocity, while the flow that has threatened Nicolosi has almost ceased. The weather in the vicinity is cloudy, and at Nicolosi it is snowing.

Castania, Sicily, March 29.—The eruptions from the side craters of Mount Aetna continued today and the lava river formed at the foot of Mount Castellazzo moved slowly toward Borrello and Belpaso, consuming everything in its path.

The lava stream, winding in and out over the uneven surface at the mountain base, has covered probably 25 miles, though its head is not more than ten miles from the sources in an air line. Throughout the night the summit of Mount Aetna appeared to be ablaze, but today a cloud of black smoke enveloped the peak. Prolonged rumblings from the central crater and frequent explosions from the side fissures served as effectually as the flood itself to hold in terror the populace for miles around.

Grandeur and Terror.

An early morning visit into the threatening region afforded a spectacle magnificent beyond description, which could be thoroughly enjoyed by the hundreds of sightseers flocking there, but for the other side of the picture.

The terror and real distress of the peasants in the vicinity is depressing. A panic has seized them and though they cling to their little home until the flood was almost upon them, they have now abandoned all but their portable property and driving before them their donkeys and pigs, the former loaded with household goods, they are wandering about with a despairing aim to preserving what little has been left to them.

On the hilltops, little groups of men, women and children could be seen looking back sadly to the sites of their former homes, now covered with lava to the height of perhaps 15 feet.

Implore the Saints.

Others, whose homes had not been overtaken clasp their crucifixes, images of the Madonna and the saints and with characteristic cries and prayers implore that their little huts be spared. Meanwhile the molten mass crawled irresistibly forward and it was determined that nothing should escape it.

At times a storm of cinders obscured the volcano and then suddenly a shift of the wind forced back the cloud and the sun burning brightly shone down upon the most fertile country in the world.

The summit of Mount Aetna appears to be still covered with snow. The people of the district have been wrought up to a high pitch of excitement and are ready for miracles, though at the same time declaring that the evil eye is upon them.

Engulfs Sanctuary.

At a little roadside altar erected to Saint Joseph, at a point above Nicolosi, the women, priests and children had gathered to implore mercy. As they knelt they saw in the distance the destructive flood advancing. As it drew nearer the agitating among the group increased until one exclaimed: "A miracle has occurred. The lava will not touch the sanctuary."

The cry was taken up by the others and then the chanting of the melancholy Sicilian hymns was renewed. Nearer came the lava, but when its heat had nearly suffocated the praying ones, the stream was diverted. With cries of joy at what appeared to be a miraculous manifestation, the supplicants sprang to their feet. A moment later the course of the flood again changed and, sweeping down upon the worshippers, permitted them but a brief time to flee for their lives while it engulfed and burned the sanctuary.

THESE HENS LAY EVERY DAY; TOO BUSY TO SET

Missouri Woman Produces All-
Year-Round Kind That Never
Go on Strike.

St. Louis, March 29.—After eight years' research a St. Louis county woman says she has bred a breed of chickens guaranteed to produce eggs every day in the year.

The only trouble with the new variety, she says, is that the hens are so busy laying eggs they forget to set and perpetuate their breed. They are a mixture of Rhode Island reds, white Leghorns and blue Andalusians.

"Talk about your egg machine," she says, "here in Missouri is the home of the barn yard queen."

The hens have had no time to go to poultry shows, and have their tails manicured, feathers powdered, and combs bathed in vinegar to enhance their beauty. They lay eggs every day whether they have pretty prize ribbons fluttering from their coops or not.

SENATOR ALLISON'S HEIRS WANT MONEY FROM U. S.

Washington, March 29.—Heirs of Senator Allison, including a number of nephews, have taken up with Senator Dolliver the matter of getting the Senate to allow them one year's salary of a senator. The Senate has done this in other cases. Senator Dolliver has promised to give the subject attention and hopes to get the allowance.

PLATT LEAVES ESTATE HIS THREE SONS

Owego, N. Y., March 29.—All of Thomas C. Platt's property is left to his three sons under his will which has been admitted to probate here. The sons are Edward H. Frank H. and Henry B. Platt. The value of the estate is not given in the will and the attorneys who presented it decline to make any estimate as to the late senator's property. The three sons are named as executors without bond.

DAMN IS NOT A CUSS WORD IN NEW JERSEY

Proverbs Quoted to Show Its
Application to Woman Was
Justified.

Morristown, N. Y., March 29.—Damn is not profanity in Morris county, even if addressed to a woman, a jury decided in a suit brought in Rockaway against Surrogate David Young by Mrs. Nellie Fitzherbert, who charged him with saying she talked like that kind of fool.

Surrogate Young pleaded justification to the indictment. His lawyer, Elmer King, quoted from proverbs: "It is better to dwell in the corner of the house top than with a brawling woman in a wide house," and "a continual dropping is a very rainy day and a contentious woman is alike."

When it came to quoting scripture, Eugene Cooper, counsel for Mrs. Fitzherbert objected. He declared that Mr. King was using mesmeric influence to prevent a righteous verdict, but the jury after two minutes' deliberation decided the surrogate was not guilty.

ARRESTS MAY CLEAR UP \$18,000 DIAMOND ROBBERY

New York, March 29.—Three arrests which may clear up a recent \$18,000 diamond jewelry robbery in Boston were made here today.

After a rough and tumble struggle on the street, central office detectives took into custody Jacob and Joseph Goldberg, brothers, and Harris Rothstein, who said they were push cart peddlers, but whom the police felt justified in retaining after comparing them with descriptions sent from Boston of men sought in connection with the Julian jewelry store robbery in that city on the night of February 28.

Five watches and a number of rings and pins were found on the prisoners and the police gave out the information that the number of one of the watches correspond with that of a watch taken from the Julian store on the night of the robbery.

RAISE ELK TO EAT; LESSEN MEAT COST

Suggestion From Washington
That Might Help Solve Cost
of Living Problem.

Washington, March 29.—The meat supply of the country might be increased considerably if the wild elk which are now giving so much trouble to the authorities and ranch men of Wyoming were to be domesticated and bred for the cattle market. Doves of more than 50,000 elk inhabit the Yellowstone park during the summer months, and when the winter snow covers the valleys there, they migrate southward into Jackson's Hole and other sections of Wyoming, where they have grazed for centuries. But their feeding grounds are now occupied by farms, and are inclosed with wire fences so that it is not only very difficult for them to get food, but thousands start to death every winter.

They are easily domesticated and their flesh makes excellent meat.

RENEW SEARCH FOR FIRE VICTIMS IN WRECKAGE

Chicago, March 29.—Search of the rubble of the Fish Furniture Building from the smoldering debris of the 12 bodies were recovered yesterday, it is thought, are still covered by the wreckage. The search was temporarily discontinued yesterday owing to danger from weakened floors.

Another Fatal Blaze.

Chicago, March 29.—Two people are known to have been burned to death and several others are believed to have perished in a fire which destroyed a dwelling in the southeast early this morning. Those known to be dead are a woman and her child.

The known dead:
MRS. AGNES GUICMA, 28 years old.
MAY GUICMA, 3 months old, her daughter.

Of the tenants a number were severely burned.

NO BLOOD UPON THE HATCHET SAYS MEYER

Witness in Saylor Murder Trial
Also Saw No Marks of Injury
on Dr. Miller.

Watsela, Ill., March 29.—According to Edward E. Meyer, on the witness stand today, in the trial of Dr. W. R. Miller, Mrs. John B. Saylor, and John Gruden for the murder of J. B. Saylor, he found no blood on a hatchet which he found near the body of the man in the night after having failed to discover it when he first examined the room. In addition Meyer stated that he saw no marks of injury on Dr. Miller aside from the wound in his wrist.

The witness graphically related a statement which he said John Gruden made that night, using the words: "This is a bad affair. Out where I live when one man calls another a vile name he dies. It seems to be different here."

Meyer declined to produce a paper on which he had written the words of Gruden and Attorney F. P. Morris asked the witness be compelled to bring it into court. Judge Dibell reserved his ruling.

CAUSE OF HOT WEATHER

Washington, D. C., March 29.—The unseasonable hot weather of the past few days has been due, according to the weather bureau, to the general stagnation of the atmosphere, the ground and air being unusually dry for the season.

WESTON FEELING FINE.

Bucklin, Mo., March 29.—Edward Payson Weston arrived in Bucklin at 8:45 o'clock this morning after a six-mile walk from Marceline, where the pedestrian had spent the night. Weston rested well last night and when he started out at 6:55 o'clock this morning, still 10 days ahead of his schedule, said he was "feeling fine."

MENNO, S. D.—A large number of Mennonites from this vicinity have organized a new colony in Beadle county, where they have purchased a large tract of land.

MORE THAN SCORE OF GIRLS PERISH IN A CHICAGO FIRE

Emma Lichtenstein Jumped
From Top Story Window
—Fish Roasts Firemen.

Chicago, Ill., March 26.—Twenty or more lives, mostly those of girls, are believed to have been lost in a fire which destroyed one of the L. Fish Furniture company's stores at 1906-1908 Wabash avenue today.

One girl, Emma Lichtenstein, was killed in jumping from a top floor window.

The deaths occurred on the fifth and sixth floors, the two topmost of the building. Employees on these floors were cut off from escape by fire which enveloped the building almost instantly following the explosion of several cans of benzine.

A spark from a cigar lighter is said to have started the fire.

THE MISSING.

Following are among those reported missing:
VERONICA M'GRATH, age 17, stenographer.
GERTRUDE QUINN, age 20, folder.
LILLIAN SULLIVAN, age 16, folder.
MARY WARGO, age 20, folder.
HANNAH BURDEN, age 30, forewoman.
ROSIE BRUCKE, age 17, stenographer.
ETHEL ANDERSON, age 13, stenographer.

HENRY M. MITCHELL, auditor; brother-in-law of Sigmund Fish, one of the partners.
MINER W. BELL, advertising manager.
BERT ST. CLAIR, age 23, confidential clerk.

WILLIAM GREEN, age 24, clerk.
John Schmidt and William Peterson, cabinet makers, who were at work in the repair room, were among those who escaped slightly burned. When a great sheet of flame shot across the floor they were knocked down, but managed to crawl to the front stairway whence they made their way to the street. The fire, they said, was preceded by an explosion which shook the building.

Escape Cut Off.

Ten women and girls, it is said, were at work on the sixth floor when the explosion occurred. The spread of the flames throughout the upper floors was almost instantaneous and when the girls rushed to the stairways they found their escape cut off. They next turned to the front of the building, smashing the windows.

It was learned that the girl who died in the hospital was Emma Lichtenstein. She was 20 years old and was employed as a filing clerk. Death was due to internal injuries received in her fall.

Soon after Miss Lichtenstein's leap a crash as if of floors falling, was heard and faces at the windows disappeared.

Caught in Elevator.

Isaac Fish, secretary of the Fish Furniture company, had entered the elevator when the explosion occurred. The elevator came to a stop between the third and fourth floors. The door of the car was automatically locked, but in a frenzy Mr. Fish and the elevator boy attacked it with a stool, which was in the cage, and succeeded in breaking it down.

According to Mr. Fish the fire started when an employee went into the finishing department on the fourth floor to get some alcohol for a cigar lighter. The electric spark of the lighter, according to Mr. Fish, started the fire which quickly reached cans of benzine and explosions followed.

Mr. Fish expressed the belief that all employees on the fourth floor escaped, but could see no hope for a cigar lighter. The electric spark of the lighter, according to Mr. Fish, started the fire which quickly reached cans of benzine and explosions followed.

Loss is \$300,000.

The financial loss is placed at \$300,000, equally divided between building and stock.

The Fish Furniture company occupies two buildings separated by an alley, one building fronting on Wabash avenue, where the fire occurred, and the other on State street, which is a block west of Wabash avenue. Those in the State street store looking across the alley could see girls on the fifth and sixth stories of the burning structure rushing back and forth to the windows screaming for assistance. At times they clung to each other. Then some of them disappeared with their hair and clothing blazing. Fire Marshal Horan stated that an investigation as to the preparedness of the building for fire would be made.

The building had but one fire escape, he alleges, whereas it should have had two.

Fish Scores Firemen.

Simon Fish, another member of the furniture company, while the blaze was at its height, created a sensation by making charges of negligence against the firemen. In bitter language he declared the firemen were slow in responding to the alarm and tardy in raising ladders. He protested that firemen interfered with employees who were attempting to make rescues, and declared that he would prefer charges against the fire department.

"I believe there would have been no loss of life if the firemen had responded," declared Mr. Fish. Marshal Horan declared that he responded without the loss of a second, and expressed the opinion that Mr. Fish would withdraw his charges after he had calmed down.

AND AT BRUSSELS, TOO.

Brussels, March 29.—Preparations are being made to give a popular welcome as well as a formal reception to former President Theodore Roosevelt upon his visit to this city late in April. Mr. Roosevelt has been invited to lecture before the Belgium Academy of Sciences.

MARIPOSA DISCOVERER DEAD.

San Francisco, March 28.—Galen Clark, the discoverer of the Mariposa grove of big trees and for 20 years a resident of Yosemite valley, died tonight at the home of his daughter in Oakland, aged 86 years.

ERUPTION OF ETNA WORKS SAD HAVOC; THE WORST OVER

Director of Observatory Caught
in Cinder Storm and Forced
to Run for Life.

Catania, Sicily, March 28.—An official report on the volcanic disturbances in the Mount Etna district, made public this forenoon, while confirming the gravity of the situation, holds out the hope that the worst is over.

The craters that may be properly described as new, appear to be only four in number. These have opened at the foot of Mount Castellazzo, four miles in an air line from the summit of Mount Etna.

One of these craters is at a spot called Tascia Albanelli. This is not throwing out much lava, but is the holiest of the four and its loud detonations are chiefly responsible for the terror of the people. It is about 600 feet above a place called Volta Sangirolamo. This is 7,000 feet above the sea and the most active of the openings, emitting the greatest flood of incandescent matter. At Tascia Arena is a third break, also very active, and near it is the fourth, showing a less serious eruption.

River of Lava.

The four streams emitted from these craters have united at the foot of Mount Castellazzo and formed a great river of lava that is bringing death and desolation into the invaded districts.

Plants, trees, whole vineyards and orchards have been destroyed by the consuming flood. This morning the lava had extended nine miles from its source.

Even in this city there was little sleep for any one last night. The greatest anxiety was felt for friends and relatives and their property interests in the threatened district by those who well know the possibilities of the disaster.

People in Terror.

In the path of the advancing flood the people are in great terror and thousands have abandoned their homes at daylight. The roaring of Mount Etna continued without interruption today and a rain of cinders fell for miles around. Several houses of peasants already have been destroyed and it is feared that if the flow does not cease very soon the flood will enter Borrello. Caravans of peasants carrying all their household goods and all of their transportable possessions are moving to places of safety. In their distress they present a pathetic sight. At many homes the molten mass has entered the cisterns and caused destructive explosions.

During the past 48 hours the emission of lava, it is estimated, has amounted to 10,000,000 cubic yards.

Ricee Flood for Life.

Professor Ricci director of the Mount Etna observatory, advancing too far into the disturbed zone today, was caught in a storm of cinders and smoke and forced to flee for his life.

Troops have been ordered into the vicinity of the volcano, and neighboring villages have come to the aid of the distressed.

After reaching the valley the lava flood widened, but diminished in velocity and this afternoon the hope that the eruptions were decreasing in volume was strengthened.

KING WILL PERSONALLY DIRECT RELIEF WORK

Rome, March 28.—King Victor Emmanuel today expressed his intention to go into the territory threatened by the volcanic eruptions in the vicinity of Mount Etna to direct the work of succor, encourage and share the danger of his subjects. If the gravity of the eruptions continued.

Premier Sonnino, who is still acting pending the choice of his successor in office today instructed the prefect of Catania to use all the means at his disposal to aid the sufferers suffering by reason of the eruptions. At the same time the ministry of war ordered troops sent to the scene to assist the mayors of the villages in maintaining order and saving property.

This city is crowded with visitors. More than 60,000 tourists, including a large number of Americans are here for holy week. Today many of these started south to witness the eruptions.

The pope has received a report of the situation from Cardinal Nava, archbishop of Catania, who yesterday visited Nicolosi and the vicinity. The cardinal describes the desolation of the stricken districts, the great fear of the population and the comfort received from the faith as manifested in public prayers and processions.

BOMB SCARES CHICAGO'S WEST SIDE; NONE HURT

Chicago, March 28.—Bomb throwers again became active in Chicago last night. They threw a shell loaded with dynamite into a room under construction in the rear of a saloon owned by Robert D. Lincoln on the west side.

The explosion wrecked the gymnasium, shattered the windows in adjoining buildings and threw passengers in an elevated car to the ground. The shock shook the elevated structure so severely that the passengers feared they were going to be toppled over to the ground, and only the presence of mind of the conductors prevented serious consequences. Scores of families were frightened from their homes by the explosion. No one was injured.

FAIRBANKS WELCOME AT HOME IS ENTHUSIASTIC

Indianapolis, Ind., March 28.—Indianapolis and Indiana yesterday welcomed former Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks home from a year's trip around the world.

The demonstration in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks was a notable one. They were met at the union station by the committee in charge of the reception and escorted to the soldiers' and sailors' monument by soldiers from Fort Benjamin Harrison and many citizens in automobiles. The formal address of welcome was delivered by Gov. Thomas R. Marshall.

BRUTAL MURDER.

Chanute, Kan., March 28.—Jas. L. Roe, local agent of the Standard Oil company, was killed here last night by an unknown person, who crushed Roe's skull with a heavy club. Roe's body was found early today near his office. There is no clew to the identity of the murderer.

ASSASSIN IS EXECUTED.

Harbin, Manchuria, March 28.—Inchan Angan, the Korean who assassinated Prince Itto, former Japanese resident general of Korea, in this city, on October 26 last, was executed at Port Arthur this morning.

MAN SHOTS BRIDE AND KILLS HIMSELF

While Visiting Wife's Father,
Groom Participates in Awful
Tragedy.

Fairfield, Ia., March 28.—H. D. McDonald, of Chicago, last night shot and killed his bride of six weeks and then committed suicide. The couple, who were married in Chicago, had just arrived in Fairfield to visit Mrs. McDonald's father. McDonald is thought to have been mentally unbalanced.

BOTTLE OF WHISKEY SEALED IN A TREE

Council Bluffs, Ia., March 28.—A pint bottle filled with rare old whiskey, the age of which is uncertain, has been found here, imbedded solidly in the heart of a maple tree, almost four feet in diameter.

President Graham, of the park board, concluded that there were too many trees in Bayless park, a breathing spot in the center of the city, so he concluded to cut out a number of the maples that were planted more than 50 years ago, when Council Bluffs was first given a place upon the Iowa map. One particular tree that was in the process of a new path that was proposed, was marked for the sacrifice. The choppers felled this tree, finding it solid from circumference to center. Sawing the trunk into four foot lengths, eight feet from the butt, the saw just missed a long necked black bottle. Observing it, the choppers carefully heaved away the wood, when to their surprise, they brought forth, tightly corked, a bottle of one pint capacity, filled with liquor. The cork was removed and the odor of liquor became apparent. It was sampled by experts who pronounced it whiskey of a most superior quality.

How the bottle of whiskey got into the center of the huge maple tree is a mystery that even the oldest settler is unable to solve. At no stage of the tree's growth was there any cavity and counting the rings of wood from the place where the bottle was lodged, each one of which represents a year's growth of the tree, it must have been there 30 years. Besides this, old settlers state that the bottle is of the type in use from 50 to 60 years ago. The bottle and contents have been placed in the public library as a curio.

MINISTER IS CHOSEN FOR IMPORTANT MISSION

Estherville, Ia., March 28.—Rev. Wm. C. Wasser, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church of this city, has just received notice from the board of foreign missions of the Methodist Episcopal church, now in session in New York city, that they have selected him as one of their representatives to the World's Missionary conference to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, June 14 to 24.

At present Dr. Wasser is touring the Holy Land, Europe and Egypt, and expected to sail for home the latter part of May, but the officers of his church here in the city, have very generously extended his leave of absence that he may avail himself of the privilege of attending this great World's Missionary conference.

The funeral of John W. Hill, for the past 30 years a resident of Iowa and an old soldier, was held from the Methodist Episcopal church here yesterday at 2 p. m. The funeral was in accordance with the local G. A. R. post, of which Mr. Hill was a member. The month of March this year will go on record as the warmest March in 40 years. Farmers are all busy seeding and the ground is in excellent condition for working. A larger acreage of corn will be planted this year than last. Some of the farmers are plowing up the stalk ground of last year and going to plant corn in the same place this year.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLER TO BE WED THIS WEEK

George W. Coleman Will Marry
Miss Mary Hightower, of
Kansas City.

Cambridge, Mass., March 28.—Despite the fact that he will probably be tried within a month on the charge of embezzlement of \$250,000 from the National City bank, of Cambridge, George W. Coleman admitted today that he would be married "some day this week." The bride-elect is Miss Mary Hightower, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Hightower, of Kansas City. Mr. Coleman is understood to have been in Kansas City a few days before his arrest.

TWELVE INDICTMENTS IN CAIRO RIOTING AFFAIR

Cairo, Ill., March 28.—Twelve indictments for rioting were returned by a special grand jury that has been investigating the attack on Alexander county jail, in which one man in the mob was killed and several injured by the sheriff's special deputies.

Those indicted are: Walker, newspaperman; Frank Gorman, an alderman; James Davidge, a constable; C. O. Foster, former deputy circuit clerk; Lee Watson, stockdealer; Samuel Wessinger, special agent of the Big Four railroad and deputy sheriff; W. H. Simpson, manager of a lumber company; James Casey, former policeman; J. B. Scott, blacksmith; W. C. Charles, liverman; O. P. Hurd, jr., president of a lumber company and John Maloney, wagon manufacturer.

The twelve were immediately arrested and released on bonds. Their trial has been set for May 9 and funds for their defense will be raised by popular subscription.

WILLOW LAKES, S. D.—At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the company which conducts a creamery at this place, a dividend of 8 per cent was declared, which, with the 8 per cent interest which the stock draws, makes it a good investment.

MYSTERY IN BURNING OF FARMER'S ELEVATOR

Madison, S. D., March 28.—The farmer's elevator in this city was consumed by fire during the night, with all its contents, about 10,000 bushels of grain, mostly barley. The building was only a year old and one of the finest in the state. It cost \$8,500 and was insured for \$6,000. The grain was insured for an equal amount. The origin of the fire is a mystery. Only three years ago the old building was burned in a much similar manner.

REGULARS CHOSEN ON NEW RULES COMMITTEE

Smith, of Iowa, One of Six
Republican Members
Named in Caucus.

Washington, March 26.—With only the friendliness sort of rivalry, although arousing a keen interest, the republican caucus last night selected the six members of the rules committee apportioned to the republican majority of the House. The following, all members of the regular wing of the party, were chosen:
Walter I. Smith of Iowa, 168 votes.
John Dalzell of Pennsylvania, 146 votes.

George P. Lawrence of Massachusetts, 126 votes.
J. Sloat Fassett of New York, 113 votes.
Sylvester C. Smith of California, 136 votes.
Henry S. Boutell of Illinois, 108 votes.

Two ballots were taken, the four first named receiving a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot and the two last named being chosen on the second ballot.

The six members named represent a slate prepared by Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, during the day, after numerous conferences with both regulars and insurgents.

The vote in the caucus was taken by the written ballot, each member writing the names of six members for whom he desired to vote. There were nineteen names placed in nomination, and a large number besides these received complimentary votes. Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, received 33 votes, the highest number cast for any insurgent.

RAILROAD BILL REPORTED.

Washington, March 26.—The administration railroad bill introduced by Representative Townsend, of Michigan, and largely amended in committee, was ordered favorably reported by the House committee on interstate commerce today.

The vote on the bill was on party lines. The republicans voted for it unanimously. Four democrats voted against it and two democrats voted present. There will be a minority report.

"Squatters" on unsurveyed lands within the national forests who have occupied their tracts continuously since before the creation of the forest reserves and who have complied with the homestead law have had their rights increased by an order just issued by the secretary of agriculture. Such settlers can now acquire title, prior to survey, to 160 acres, a full homestead entry, wherever possible. The new order relates to the act of June 11, 1906, which permits the secretary to list for settlement land within the national forest reserve which he finds chiefly valuable for agriculture.

The senate has confirmed the nomination of William S. Kenyon, of Iowa, to be assistant attorney general.

The raising of the battleship Maine, now submerged in the harbor of Havana, now provided for in a bill passed by the House.

In the Senate a bill providing for the codification of the laws relating to the judiciary was under consideration during almost the entire session.

Secretary Ballinger has temporarily withdrawn 56,695 acres of public lands from all forms of disposition in aid of proposed legislation effecting the disposal of waterpower sites on the public domain. The withdrawals are located in Colorado and Oregon.

Two of President Taft's conservation measures were introduced yesterday in the House. One providing for the classification of public lands was presented by Representative Smith of California, and another granting to the president the power to withdraw lands from entry which was introduced by Representative Pickett of Iowa. Both measures have been introduced by Senator Nelson in the Senate.

TWO AUTO COMPANIES INCLUDED IN MERGER

New York, March 28.—As a result of the merger of the interests of the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing company and the E. M. F. company at a meeting of the board of directors of the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing company, held in the offices of the company at South Bend, Ind., Wednesday, and at the instigation of the management, Walter E. Penders, president and general manager of the E. M. F. company, and Frederick W. Stevens of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., of New York, were elected members of the board of directors of the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing company. Both gentlemen are now members of the board of directors of the E. M. F. company.

THOMAS WALSH IS SUED FOR \$250,000 FOR LIBEL

Washington, March 26.—One-quarter of a million dollars as damages for alleged libel and conspiracy are demanded by Thomas F. Walsh, the mine owner of Colorado and Washington, in a suit filed today in the supreme court of the District of Columbia by Dethiel C. Hansen, a New York lawyer.

Hansen alleges that Mr. Walsh caused to be published in a Denver newspaper, July 12, 1905, a statement in which it is alleged he referred to Hansen as a "blackmailer and perjurer."

Washington, March